

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. A free press (that includes broadcast media) is critical to the health of our democracy. Sinclair's record of obvious support for the GOP and its clear bias in choosing to air "Stolen Honor", without balancing this presentation with a pro-Kerry program like "Going Upriver" is a clear abuse of this media corporation's free access to the airwaves.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. I find it absolutely absurd that our local station, WGME, is forced by Sinclair to air such blatantly partisan fare. "Serve the public interest", my eye.

The FCC stands between the interests and good of the public and the interests and good of the few, huge, corporations that own much of the media. I'm counting on the FCC to protect the public good. Sinclair certainly seems vastly more interested in promoting a particular political agenda and in pleasing corporate officials. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.